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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to determine rates of student persistence in the Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD). Using the fall 1988 semester for comparison, two cohorts (i.e., first-time freshmen and all LRCCD students) were tracked for the spring and fall 1989 semesters. Data were compiled for the whole district and for each of the four colleges in the LRCCD, analyzing persistence by gender and ethnicity for both groups. Study highlights included the following: (1) the overall fall-to-spring district persistence rate (57.1%) was generally higher than the fall-to-fall rate (40.7%); (2) the overall district persistence rate for first-time freshmen was lower than that for all students fall-to-spring, but higher when fall-to-fall persistence was calculated; (3) male freshmen and males in general persisted at a higher rate than the average for both fall-to-spring and fall-to-fall; (4) generally, Asian and Filipino students had the highest persistence rates, and Whites and American Indians had the lowest persistence rates; (5) American River College and Sacramento City College's (SCC's) fall-to-fall persistence rates for all students and for first-time freshmen were above the district-wide average, while Consumnes River College was slightly lower than the average; and (6) first-time freshmen Asian students at SCC had the highest retention rate (79.0%) of all first-time freshmen when compared to the other campuses. A graph showing the decrease in degrees and certificates awarded and an analysis of persistence by age and gender are appended. (WJT)

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Los Rios Community College District
Office of Planning and Research
Student Persistence Study

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March 1990

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**Los Rios Community College District
Office of Planning and Research
Student Persistence Study**

The Office of Planning and Research has had a number of requests to determine the persistence rate of students from one semester to the next, or from one year to the next. Armed with our CDC CYBER mainframe and SPSS-X, we tackled the question of student persistence.

With Fall 1988 as the semester for comparison, we examined two different populations: First-Time Freshmen and All Los Rios Students. We tracked both student cohorts for the Spring 1989 and Fall 1989 semesters. The research question we wanted to answer was: Of all students (or of First-Time Freshmen) attending Los Rios in Fall 1988, how many were still attending the subsequent semester (Spring 1989), or the following year (Fall 1989)? We wanted to know the answer for the whole district, and for each of the colleges (including the Placerville Center). We also wanted to know if the persistence rate differed between men and women, or by ethnic group. (For purposes of this analysis, we did not exclude degree and certificate earners since relatively few degrees and certificates are granted annually. See Appendix.)

Our findings have been summarized by college and cohort in the following pages, but particular district and college highlights are discussed below:

District Highlights:

- The overall fall-to spring persistence rate was generally higher (57.1%) than the fall-to-fall rate (40.7%).
- The overall persistence rates for First-Time Freshmen were lower than those for all students for fall-to-spring, but higher when fall-to-fall persistence is calculated.
- Male persistence rates were generally higher than the average for both fall-to-spring and fall-to-fall for both All Los Rios Students and First-Time Freshmen, but the female fall-to-fall persistence rate was higher than the average fall-to-fall persistence rate for All Los Rios Students.
- Generally, Asian and Filipino students had the highest persistence rates when compared to the other ethnic groups for both fall-to fall and fall-to-spring, and for All Los Rios students and First-Time Freshmen. Whites and American Indians had lower persistence rates than the other ethnic groups.

- Since the low persistence rates of whites and American Indians was somewhat surprising, we investigated further. Our hypothesis was that white and American Indian students were older and therefore more likely to be employed and to attend intermittently, so an age group analysis was done (see Appendix). This did in fact prove to be the case with both the All Student and First-Time Freshmen cohorts, since there were proportionally more older white and American Indian students in both cohorts.

College Highlights:

- ARC and SCC fall-to-fall student persistence rates for All Students and First-Time Freshmen were above the districtwide average, while CRC was slightly lower than the average. (This reflects the relatively younger student populations at SCC and ARC.)
- First-Time Freshmen Asian students at SCC had the highest retention rate of all First-time Freshmen when compared to the other campuses (79.0% compared to the average of 74.6%).
- The Placerville Center had generally low persistence rates, reflecting their predominantly older, part-time student population.

Los Rios District

Los Rios Community College District
All Los Rios Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared: **Fall 1988 to Spring 1989**

District Student Population in Fall 1988: **43117**

**Number of Fall 1988 students still
attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:** **24621**

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring): **57.1%**

Persistence by Gender

Male	58.3%
Female	56.2%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	67.3%
Filipino	59.7%
Other	58.3%
Hispanic	57.1%
Black	56.7%
No Code	56.4%
White	55.9%
Am. Ind.	54.3%

Los Rios Community College District
First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared: Fall 1988 to Spring 1989

District First Time Freshmen
Population in Fall 1988: 7544

Number of Fall 1988 First Time Freshmen
still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989: 4217

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring): 55.9%

Persistence by Gender

Male	57.1%
Female	54.9%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	74.6%
Filipino	62.5%
Other	58.3%
White	54.5%
Black	54.4%
Hispanic	53.9%
Am. Ind.	44.8%
No Code	44.4%

Los Rios Community College District
All Los Rios Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared: Fall 1988 to Fall 1989

District Population in Fall 1988: 43117

Number of Fall 1988 First Time Freshmen
still attending Los Rios in Fall 1989: 17568

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall): 40.7%

Persistence by Gender

Female	40.9%
Male	40.5%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	49.5%
Filipino	45.1%
Other	41.9%
Hispanic	41.8%
No Code	40.3%
Black	39.7%
White	39.6%
Am. Ind.	38.7%

Los Rios Community College District
First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared: Fall 1988 to Fall 1989

District First Time Freshmen
Population in Fall 1988: 7544

Number of Fall 1988 First Time Freshmen
still attending Los Rios in Fall 1989: 3249

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall): 43.0%

Persistence by Gender

Male	43.4%
Female	42.8%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	60.4%
Filipino	55.5%
Other	47.7%
White	41.7%
Black	40.0%
Hispanic	39.7%
No Code	37.3%
Am. Ind.	36.4%

American River College

American River College
All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared: Fall 1988 to Spring 1989

ARC Student Population in Fall 1988: 19443

Number of Fall 1988 ARC students still
attending Los Rios in Spring 1989: 11480

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring): 59.0%

Persistence by Gender

Male	60.3%
Female	58.1%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	65.1%
Filipino	60.9%
Other	59.6%
White	58.9%
Hispanic	58.9%
Black	57.3%
No Code	56.5%
Am. Ind.	54.4%

American River College
First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared:

Fall 1988 to Spring 1989

ARC First Time Freshmen
Population in Fall 1988:

3938

Number of Fall 1988 ARC First Time Freshmen
still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:

2283

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring):

58.0%

Persistence by Gender

Male	58.6%
Female	57.4%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	70.5%
Filipino	64.5%
Other	63.7%
White	58.2%
Black	54.3%
Hispanic	53.8%
Am. Ind.	48.2%
No Code	45.0%

American River College
All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared: **Fall 1988 to Fall 1989**

ARC Student Population in Fall 1988: **19443**

**Number of Fall 1988 ARC students still
attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:** **8095**

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall): **41.6%**

Persistence by Gender

Female	42.0%
Male	41.1%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	46.6%
Filipino	45.1%
Hispanic	43.7%
Other	43.3%
Black	41.3%
White	41.1%
Am. Ind.	40.7%
No Code	38.7%

American River College
First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared: Fall 1988 to Fall 1989

ARC First Time Freshmen
Population in Fall 1988: 3938

Number of Fall 1988 ARC First Time Freshmen
still attending Los Rios in Fall 1989: 1764

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall): 44.8%

Persistence by Gender

Female	45.5%
Male	43.9%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	55.7%
Filipino	54.8%
Other	46.2%
White	44.6%
Black	42.7%
Hispanic	42.4%
Am. Ind.	40.0%
No Code	38.8%

Cosumnes River College

Cosumnes River College
All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared: **Fall 1988 to Spring 1989**

CRC Student Population in Fall 1988: **6558**

**Number of Fall 1988 CRC students still
attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:** **3400**

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring): **51.8%**

Persistence by Gender

Male	52.5%
Female	51.3%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	60.8%
No Code	58.5%
Filipino	58.1%
Other	49.5%
Am. Ind.	53.7%
Hispanic	52.2%
White	50.6%
Black	50.6%

Cosumnes River College
First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared: Fall 1988 to Spring 1989

CRC First Time Freshmen
Population in Fall 1988: 833

Number of Fall 1988 CRC First Time Freshmen
still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989: 331

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring): 39.7%

Persistence by Gender

Male	41.0%
Female	38.7%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	63.0%
Filipino	56.0%
No Code	47.1%
Black	40.5%
Hispanic	37.2%
White	36.8%
Other	34.3%
Am. Ind.	22.2%

Cosumnes River College

All Students Student Persistence Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared: **Fall 1988 to Fall 1989**

CRC Student Population in Fall 1988: **6558**

**Number of Fall 1988 CRC students still
attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:** **2470**

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall): **37.7%**

Persistence by Gender

Female	38.0%
Male	37.2%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	48.1%
Filipino	45.7%
No Code	41.5%
Hispanic	39.6%
Black	36.8%
White	36.2%
Other	34.1%
Am. Ind.	31.6%

Placerville Center

Placerville Center
All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared: Fall 1988 to Spring 1989

CRC/P Student Population in Fall 1988: 2016

Number of Fall 1988 CRC/P students still
attending Los Rios in Spring 1989: 864

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring): 42.9%

Persistence by Gender

Female	43.6%
Male	41.0%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Black	57.1%
Other	54.7%
No Code	50.0%
Filipino	50.0%
Hispanic	47.6%
White	42.5%
Asian	36.4%
Am. Ind.	36.4%

Placerville Center
First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared: Fall 1988 to Spring 1989

CRC/P First Time Freshmen
 Population in Fall 1988: 400

Number of Fall 1988 CRC/P First Time Freshmen
 still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989: 143

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring): 35.8%

Persistence by Gender

Female	36.8%
Male	33.8%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	100.0%
Other	57.1%
No Code	40.0%
Hispanic	40.0%
White	35.1%
Am. Ind.	28.6%
Filipino	0.0%
Black	0.0%

Placerville Center

**All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall**

Semesters Compared: **Fall 1988 to Fall 1989**

CRC/P Student Population in Fall 1988: **2016**

**Number of Fall 1988 CRC/P students still
attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:** **596**

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall): **29.6%**

Persistence by Gender

Female	30.1%
Male	28.4%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Black	57.1%
Other	35.7%
No Code	33.3%
White	29.5%
Am. Ind.	29.1%
Hispanic	25.4%
Filipino	25.0%
Asian	18.2%

Placerville Center
First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared: Fall 1988 to Fall 1989

CRC/P First Time Freshmen
 Population in Fall 1988: 400

Number of Fall 1988 CRC/P First Time Freshmen
 still attending Los Rios in Fall 1989: 96

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall): 24.0%

Persistence by Gender

Male	28.9%
Female	21.3%

Persistence by Ethnicity

No Code	40.0%
Other	28.5%
White	23.8%
Am. Ind.	21.4%
Hispanic	20.0%
Filipino	0.0%
Asian	0.0%
Black	0.0%

Sacramento City College

Sacramento City College
All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared: **Fall 1988 to Spring 1989**

SCC Student Population in Fall 1988: **15095**

**Number of Fall 1988 SCC students still
attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:** **8877**

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring): **58.8%**

Persistence by Gender

Male	59.9%
Female	58.0%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	69.9%
Other	60.9%
Filipino	60.0%
Hispanic	60.0%
Black	59.1%
Am. Ind.	57.8%
No Code	56.7%
White	55.9%

Sacramento City College
First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared: Fall 1988 to Spring 1989

SCC First Time Freshmen
Population in Fall 1988: 2373

Number of Fall 1988 SCC First Time Freshmen
still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989: 1460

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring): 61.5%

Persistence by Gender

Male	63.2%
Female	60.0%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	79.0%
Filipino	63.4%
Other	62.4%
Am. Ind.	59.0%
White	58.5%
Black	58.4%
Hispanic	58.2%
No Code	42.1%

Sacramento City College
All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared: **Fall 1988 to Fall 1989**

SCC Student Population in Fall 1988: **15095**

**Number of Fall 1988 SCC students still
attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:** **6407**

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall): **42.4%**

Persistence by Gender

Female	42.6%
Male	42.3%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	51.2%
Filipino	45.2%
Other	44.1%
No Code	44.1%
Hispanic	41.7%
Am. Ind.	40.8%
White	40.6%
Black	40.0%

Sacramento City College
First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared: Fall 1988 to Fall 1989

SCC First Time Freshmen
Population in Fall 1988: 2373

Number of Fall 1988 SCC First Time Freshmen
still attending Los Rios in Fall 1989: 1137

Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall): 47.9%

Persistence by Gender

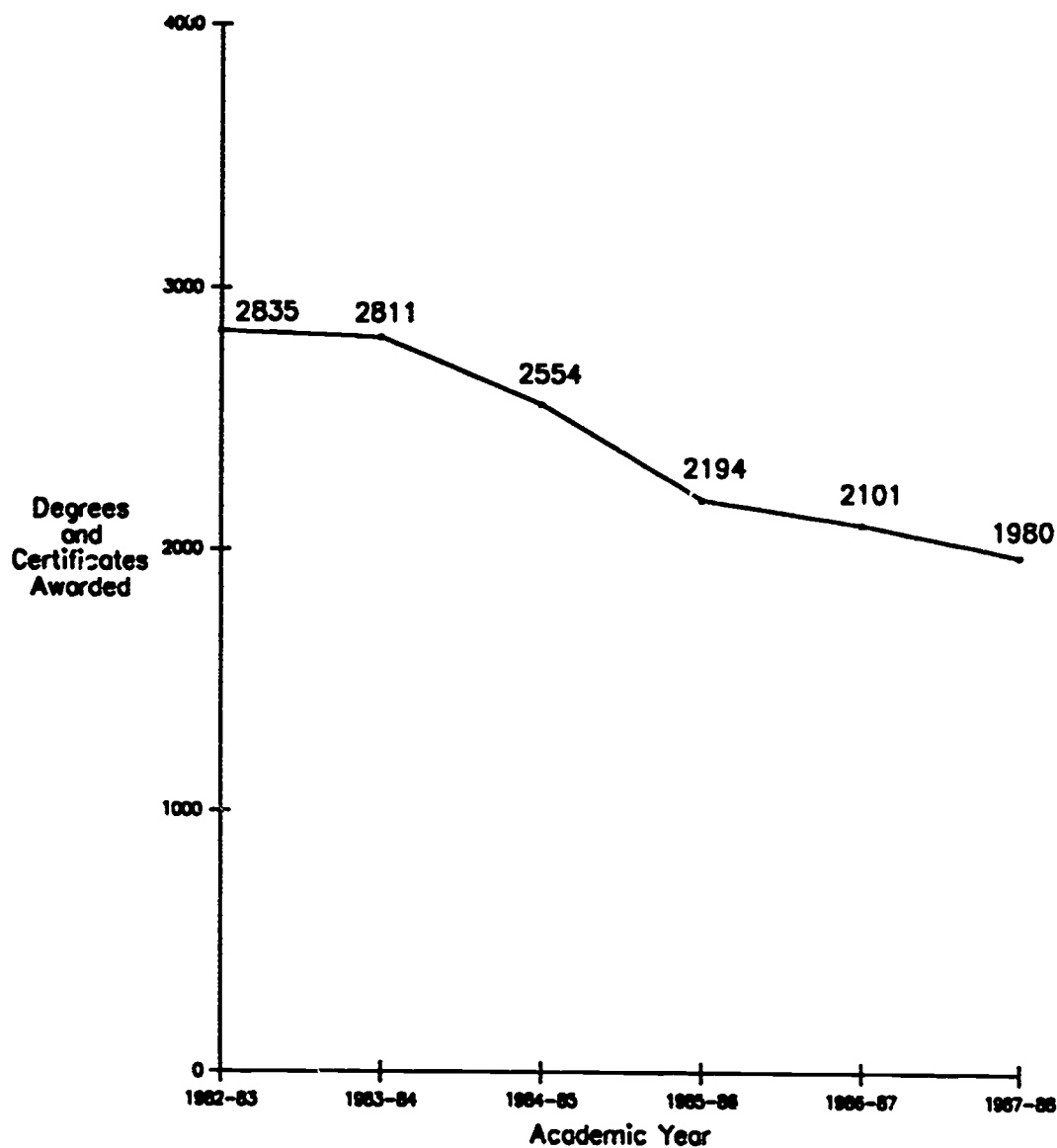
Male	48.6%
Female	47.3%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	65.5%
Filipino	61.0%
Other	57.6%
Am. Ind.	46.2%
White	45.9%
No Code	42.1%
Hispanic	41.3%
Black	39.7%

**Appendix A:
Degrees and Certificates
Awarded**

Los Rios Community College District Degrees/Certificates Awarded



Appendix B: Age Group Analysis

Los Rios District

AGE GROUP	ETHNICITY										T	
	COUNT	I										
	ROW PCT	INO CODE	AM.IND.	ASIAN	BLACK	WHITE	HISPANIC	FILIPINO	OTHER			
	COL PCT	I										
	I0	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5	I6	I7	I			
UNDER 18	1	I 14	I 22	I 131	I 91	I 779	I 108	I 28	I 49	I 1222		
		I 1.1	I 1.8	I 10.7	I 7.4	I 63.7	I 8.8	I 2.3	I 4.0	I 2.8		
		I 3.1	I 2.4	I 3.6	I 2.5	I 2.7	I 3.0	I 4.0	I 3.9	I		
18 TO 20	2	I 122	I 192	I 1247	I 967	I 7256	I 989	I 240	I 328	I 1341		
		I 1.1	I 1.7	I 11.0	I 8.5	I 64.0	I 8.7	I 2.1	I 2.9	I 26.3		
		I 26.7	I 21.1	I 34.3	I 26.8	I 25.1	I 27.1	I 34.1	I 26.0	I		
21 TO 24	3	I 71	I 190	I 834	I 658	I 5196	I 799	I 159	I 261	I 8168		
		I .9	I 2.3	I 10.2	I 8.1	I 63.6	I 9.8	I 1.9	I 3.2	I 18.9		
		I 15.5	I 20.8	I 22.9	I 18.2	I 18.0	I 21.9	I 22.6	I 20.7	I		
25 TO 29	4	I 60	I 177	I 550	I 634	I 4923	I 691	I 73	I 205	I 7313		
		I .8	I 2.4	I 7.5	I 8.7	I 67.3	I 9.4	I 1.0	I 2.8	I 17.0		
		I 13.1	I 19.4	I 15.1	I 17.6	I 17.0	I 18.9	I 10.4	I 16.3	I		
30 TO 39	5	I 88	I 197	I 531	I 799	I 6142	I 700	I 123	I 269	I 8849		
		I 1.0	I 2.2	I 6.0	I 9.0	I 69.4	I 7.9	I 1.4	I 3.0	I 20.5		
		I 19.3	I 21.6	I 14.6	I 22.1	I 21.3	I 19.2	I 17.5	I 21.3	I		
40 & OVR	6	I 102	I 134	I 342	I 461	I 4591	I 365	I 81	I 148	I 6224		
		I 1.6	I 2.2	I 5.5	I 7.4	I 73.8	I 5.9	I 1.3	I 2.4	I 14.4		
		I 22.3	I 14.7	I 9.4	I 12.8	I 15.9	I 10.0	I 11.5	I 11.7	I		
COLUMN		457	972	3635	3610	28887	3652	704	1260	43117		
TOTAL		1.1	2.1	8.4	8.4	67.0	8.5	1.6	2.9	100.0		

First-Time Freshmen

AGE GROUP	COUNT ROW PCT COL PCT	ETHNICITY										T
		INO	CODE	AM.IND.	ASIAN	BLACK	WHITE	HISPANIC	FILIPINO	OTHER		
		I0	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5	I6	I7	I		
		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
UNDER 18	1	I 10	I 13	I 71	I 64	I 503	I 79	I 19	I 31	I 790		
		I 1.3	I 1.6	I 9.0	I 8.1	I 63.7	I 10.0	I 2.4	I 3.9	I 10.5		
		I 7.6	I 7.9	I 11.9	I 10.3	I 10.1	I 10.9	I 14.8	I 14.2	I		
18 TO 20	2	I 53	I 73	I 356	I 346	I 2562	I 369	I 79	I 118	I 3956		
		I 1.3	I 1.8	I 9.0	I 8.7	I 64.8	I 9.3	I 2.0	I 3.0	I 52.4		
		I 40.5	I 44.2	I 59.5	I 55.5	I 51.7	I 50.7	I 61.7	I 54.1	I		
21 TO 24	3	I 13	I 28	I 63	I 82	I 542	I 103	I 7	I 20	I 858		
		I 1.5	I 3.3	I 7.3	I 9.6	I 63.2	I 12.0	I .8	I 2.3	I 11.4		
		I 9.9	I 17.0	I 10.5	I 13.2	I 10.9	I 14.1	I 5.5	I 9.2	I		
25 TO 29	4	I 8	I 14	I 41	I 47	I 447	I 72	I 7	I 18	I 654		
		I 1.2	I 2.1	I 6.3	I 7.2	I 68.3	I 11.0	I 1.1	I 2.8	I 8.7		
		I 6.1	I 8.5	I 6.9	I 7.5	I 9.0	I 9.9	I 5.5	I 8.3	I		
30 TO 39	5	I 14	I 19	I 39	I 56	I 458	I 63	I 8	I 17	I 674		
		I 2.1	I 2.8	I 5.0	I 8.3	I 68.0	I 9.3	I 1.2	I 2.5	I 8.9		
		I 10.7	I 11.5	I 6.5	I 9.0	I 9.2	I 8.7	I 6.3	I 7.8	I		
40 & OVR	6	I 33	I 18	I 28	I 28	I 446	I 42	I 8	I 14	I 617		
		I 5.3	I 2.9	I 4.5	I 4.5	I 72.3	I 6.8	I 1.3	I 2.3	I 8.2		
		I 25.2	I 10.9	I 4.7	I 4.5	I 9.0	I 5.8	I 6.3	I 6.4	I		
COLUMN TOTAL		131	165	598	623	4958	721	128	218	7549		
		1.7	2.2	7.9	8.3	65.7	9.6	1.7	2.9	100.0		

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